

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2592

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JM, US

SUBJECT: EMERGING GOJ LINE ON THE AGEE VISIT?

1. STATEMENTS BY TWO JAMAICAN MINISTERS SUGGEST THAT THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE ENDEAVORING TO ADOPT A "HIGH ROAD" APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF PHILIP AGEE'S REVELATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON, QUERIED ON JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC) NEWS AS HE RETURNED FROM CUBA ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ALLEGED CIA EMPLOYEES NAMED BY AGEE HAD BEEN DEPORTED, SAID, "YOU DO NOT DEPORT A MAN SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CIA. YOU DEPORT A MAN IF, WHETHER CIA OR NOT, HE IS CARRYING ON SUBVERSIVE ACTS IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY."

2. THIS POSITION WAS MIRRORED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON WHO SPOKE TO THE PRESS ON HIS RETURN YESTERDAY (SEPTEMBER 27) FROM GUYANA WHERE HE HAD ATTENDED A MEETING OF CARICOM'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. ASKED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA IN JAMAICA, PATTERSON REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE

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JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT "THERE WAS AND

STILL IS A CIA PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY." HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE... IF THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE OBLIGATION TO ASK THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY."

3. COMMENT: THE JBC INTERVIEW WITH THOMPSON NOT ONLY GIVES SOME INDICATION OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT MAY DEAL WITH THE AGEE REVELATIONS BUT ALSO INDICATES THAT THOMPSON QUITE LIKELY WAS MISQUOTED WHEN ASKED THE SAME QUESTIONS IN CUBA (SEE KINGSTON 4138). AS HE SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THE ASTONISHING STATEMENT MADE IN HAVANA "I HAVE NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THE NAMES STATED (BY AGEE) AS PART OF THE EMBASSY" -- HE TOLD THE JBC INTERVIEWER THAT WHERE "ASKED WHETHER JAMAICA HAD DEPORTED THESE IDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF THE CIA, I POINTED OUT, WE CANNOT STATE THAT THESE NAMED PEOPLE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CIA. THAT IS NOT OUR INFORMATION, WHATEVER MR. AGEE MAY KNOW... I DON'T KNOW EVEN WHO ARE THE ACTUAL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AS SUCH. SO I CANNOT STATE THAT THE MEMBERS HE STATED OF THE EMBASSY ARE MEMBERS OF THE CIA." AND WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT WAS TESTING THE CREDIBILITY OF AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS, THOMPSON AGAIN PLACED SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND AGEE WHEN HE SAID, "I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TREAT THIS AS A PIECE OF EVIDENCE COMING FROM SOMEBODY WHO WORKED INSIDE THE ORGANIZATION. BUT THAT WOULD NOT BE DONE BY THIS (THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS) MINISTRY BUT BY THE MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY. THEY ARE THE BEST PERSONS TO TELL YOU HOW FAR THEY ARE GONE. I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEVER THROWS AWAY ANYTHING THAT IS OF IMPORTANCE IN A MATTER LIKE THIS. THEY WOULD FOLLOW IT UP."

GERARD

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